

A.N.: 10/613,665
Reply to Office Action of February 10, 2005
Docket No.: 76285-310536
Page 5

REMARKS

The present Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action mailed February 10, 2005. Claims 1 and 8 have been objected to for informalities. Claim 8 was rejected as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by US Patent No. 4,219,207 to Muir et al. Claims 1- and 9-11 were rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Muir in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,324,409 to Larsen et al. Claim 4 was rejected as obvious over Muir and Larsen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,000,466 to Hartog, or, in the alternative, in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,799,564 to Eisenschmid. Claims 507 were rejected as obvious over Muir and Larson in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,538,674 to Schwarz.

Reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments made to the claims and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8 and 11 have been amended. After entry of this amendment, claims 1-11 are still pending.

The Applicant submits that the amendments to the claims are supported by the application as originally filed and do not introduce new matter.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 1 and 8 because the term "standard" was utilized as a term. The term "standard" has been deleted from both of these claims. The Examiner's objection is therefore obviated.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 § 102(b) as being anticipated by Muir. The Muir reference reports a "ski machine" with a "seat frame supported by spaced skis and individual manual controls." Abstract. The Muir ski machine is permanently affixed to the skis selected for use and is not designed to be attached and detached. Muir does not teach or disclose a ski-sled frame that includes a "ski connection means" that allows the ski-sled to be

A.N.: 10/613,665
Reply to Office Action of February 10, 2005
Docket No.: 76285-310536
Page 6

"removably" attached "to a pair of alpine ski bindings" as claimed by the present invention. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 9-11 as obvious over Muir in view of Larsen. Because claims 2-7 and 9-10 depend directly or indirectly on these independent claims 1 and 11, the patentability of these dependent claims depends *a priori* on the patentability of the independent claims. Only the patentability of the independent claims will therefore be discussed.

Muir, as previously discussed, reports a "ski machine" with a "seat frame supported by spaced skis and individual manual controls." Abstract. The Muir ski machine is permanently affixed to the skis selected for use and is not designed to be attached and detached. Larsen reports a "sled body apparatus having an adjustable attachment device for connection to the conventional ski bindings mounted on a pair of snow skis" which "can be adapted to connect to the bindings of both downhill and cross-country skis." Abstract. The Larsen reference states that the sled body "rigidly positions the attached snow skis." Col. 5, lines 19-20.

In contrast, as claimed by amended claims 1 and 11, the present invention covers a ski-sled frame that is pivotally attached to the ski connection members. As illustrated in FIG. 2, the pivotal relationship of the frame and the ski connection members allow the ski connection members 28 and 30 and skis to rotate inwardly or outwardly relative to the frame. Such rotation allows for improved steering and a better ride. Moreover, as claimed in independent claims 1 and 11, the present invention includes "a brake positioned under the frame such that the brake is disposed between the alpine ski bindings." The brake in Muir and Larsen are both in line or outside of the skis and ski bindings.

The remaining rejections of the independent claims as obvious over the additional references is therefore obviated by the allowability of the independent claims upon which they depend.

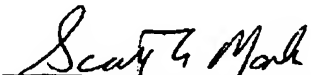
A.N.: 10/613,665
Reply to Office Action of February 10, 2005
Docket No.: 76285-310536
Page 7

In the event that the amount submitted herewith is incorrect, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any over payment to our Deposit Account 06-0029 and is requested to notify us of the same.

Respectfully Submitted,

ROBERT W. PIPER

By:


Scott A. Marks, #44,902
FAEGRE & BENSON LLP
2200 Wells Fargo Center
90 South Seventh Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-3901
612/766-7820

Dated: May 10, 2005

M2:20712882.01